



Park Rangers Association of California

Park Ranger Training and Standards

Purpose:

To provide guidelines for the standards and training of the professional park ranger established by the Park Rangers Association of California. The standards established by the Board of Directors in March 2001, are minimum skills needed for the professional park ranger. An agency may require more or less than the standards given. The skills describe basic training in interpretation; maintenance & operations; resource management; fire management; emergency medical services; and law enforcement. The public safety standards and training follow the guidelines of state law, directed by the State Fire Marshall; Peace Officers Standards & Training; and the Occupational Safety and Health Association. The Park Rangers Association's recommended training is to provide adequately trained rangers and reduce liability by following state approved training. There are two certificates available the Generalist Ranger Certificate-Public Safety for Park Ranger-Peace Officers and Generalist Ranger Certificate, which is designed for non-sworn Park Rangers.

Oversight:

The Standards and Training Committee serves as oversight for the following domains:

1. Interpretation
2. Resource Management
3. Maintenance & Operations (Park Stewardship)
4. Fire Management and Search and Rescue
5. Emergency Medical Services
6. Law Enforcement

It will be the Standards and Training Committee's responsibility to continuously evaluate each discipline for any needed changes; monitor the certification process; seek and approve specific training programs for standards and training; and maintain training records of individuals.

Committee:

It shall be the responsibility for the committee to:

1. Establish statewide standards for the professional park ranger.
2. Establish professional training, seminars and workshops for its discipline.
3. Establish criteria needed to meet skills for certification.
4. Establish prerequisites needed prior to taking a specific course.

5. Implement a challenge procedure for individuals who may have taken similar/previous training.
6. Develop instructors to provide training for each discipline.
7. Develop or include any time limits needed for update or retraining on specific coursework.

Certification:

The Park Rangers Association shall issue certificates of training or skills to individuals completing approved training. Organizations that provide similar training that meet the criteria for the standards may receive certification upon approval from the Standards and Training Committee.

Applicants:

Applications may be made by any uniformed park professional. Applicants are not required to be members of the Park Rangers Association of California.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants may apply for each domain individually or apply for all the required domains to achieve certification as a PRAC Generalist Park Ranger.

Step 1 – Download the application form for each domain.

Step 2 – Review all the requirements listed on each application

Step 3 – Provide the required documentation for each item on the application. Any incomplete application will be not be evaluated by the committee and will be returned to the applicant

APPROVED DOCUMENTATION:

Each application state the minimum certification level OR the minimum number of course hours for each topic.

Acceptable forms of documentation include:

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFCATIONS

- Copies of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certificates.
- POST Transcripts.
- Copies of Certificates issued by the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- Copies of Certifications issued by California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI).
- Copies of Certifications issued by the Office of Emergency Services (OES).
- Copies of Certificates issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Copies of Certificates issued by local or State Emergency Medical Services Agencies.
- Copies of Certificates issued by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC)
- Copies of Certificates issued by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI)
- Copies of Certificates issued by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.
- Certificates from equivalent organizations from the State of Nevada are also acceptable.

COLLEGE COURSE WORK

Documentation of College Course Work shall be in the form of a college transcripts from accredited colleges and universities

Only completed courses with a passing grade (a "C" or 2.0) shall be considered.

DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING

The Committee may accept internal training hours for the applicant's employing agency. To document departmental trainings the applicant must submit a letter from the agencies training officer, on department letterhead, providing the following information for each course:

- Date of Training
- Location of Training
- Name and title of the primary instructor
- A detailed description of the course content
- Total number of course hours

Step 4- Attach the required documentation to each domain application. Include a copy of any college transcripts and mail to:

- Park Rangers Association of California
- Standards and Training Committee
- P.O. Box 153
- Stewarts Point, CA 95480

Or emailed to standards@calranger.org

The applicant should retain one copy of the complete application for their records.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

Once an application is received the packet will be assigned to a member of the Standards and Training Committee.

The Reviewer shall evaluate the application and validate that the information in the application is correct, true and meets the standards defined in the application.

The Reviewer may contact the applicant for additional information to clarify any material submitted. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant to be amended and resubmitted.

Upon completion of the first review the applicants packet will be forwarded to a second member of the Standards and Training Committee for validation.

Once both reviewers agree that the application is complete and meets the requirements established by the Park Rangers Association of California a certificate for each completed domain will be awarded to the applicant.

Park Rangers Association of California Generalist Ranger Certification

Each applicant that successfully meets the requirements of all the required domains shall be awarded the Generalist Ranger Certificate or Generalist Ranger-Public Safety Certification. The Generalist Certificates are typically presented by the Board of Directors of the Park Rangers Association of California during the Awards Banquet at the California Parks Training Conference held each spring. If the recipient of the award will not be able to attend the California Parks Conference they may request the certificate and plaque be sent by mail.

The successful completion of the Generalist Certificate is an achievement of note and the Committee and the Board strongly encourage successful applicants to attend the Awards Banquet for the formal presentation.



Park Rangers Association of California

Application for Certificate of Standard

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAY PHONE: _____ EVENING PHONE: _____

EMPLOYING AGENCY: _____

AGENCY ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: _____ CONTACT PHONE: _____

POSTION: _____

CERTIFICATE TYPE: Generalist Public Safety
 Generalist

Please indicate standard(s) included in this application.

Law Enforcement _____

Interpretation _____

Resource Management _____

Fire and Rescue _____

Maintenance & Operations _____

Emergency Medical Services _____



Park Rangers Association of California

Interpretation

National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide certification

OR

College/University Course on Basics of Interpretation (Minimum of 3 semester units)

OR

COURSE OF STUDY

		<u>Presenter/College</u>	<u>PRAC</u>	<u>Other</u>
Introduction to Interpretation	4 hours			
Program Planning and Development	16 hours			
Programs for Children	4 hours			
Campfire & Amphitheater Programs (large groups)	4 hours			
Programs for Everyone (Accessibility and Visitors With Diverse Needs)	4 hours			
Presentations Skills	8 hours			

Substations: NAI Certified Interpretive Host or higher Certifications or a letter from their supervisor stating they met PRAC standards).

Attach sealed copies of college transcripts or copies of course completion certificates to document completion of required hours in each area of study to this page.

(As a general rule- one semester unit at a College or University is approximately 45 hours of course work.)



Park Rangers Association of California

Natural Resources Management and Protection

Associates degree or higher in Natural Resource Management or related field from an accredited college or university

OR

California Naturalist Certificate - UC Environmental Stewards

OR

Biology **Total Course Time- 32 hours**

Presenter/College PRAC Other

Botany 16 hours

Zoology 16 hours

Geography **Total Course Time -24 hours**

Presenter/College PRAC Other

Physical Geography

Geology

Cultural Anthropology

Resource Management **Total Course Time-24 hours**

Presenter/College PRAC Other

Natural History

Ecology

Conservation

Attach copies of college transcripts or copies of course completion certificates to document completion of required hours in each area of study to this page.

(As a general rule - one semester unit at a College or University is approximately 45 hours of course content.)



Park Rangers Association of California

Park Maintenance Operations

		<u>Presenter/College</u>	<u>PRAC</u>	<u>Other</u>
Landscape Maintenance	8 hours			
Equipment Safety & Repair	8 hours			
Facilities Maintenance	8 hours			
Trail Maintenance	8 hours			
Basic Construction Skills	8 hours			

OR

Signed document on agency letterhead from supervisor or chief stating you have met this requirement with on-the-job training or experience.

Attach copies of college transcripts or copies of course completion certificates to document completion of required hours in each area of study to this page.

(As a general rule - one semester unit at a California College or University is approximately 45 hours of course content.)



Park Rangers Association of California

Fire and Rescue

Wildland Firefighting and ICS

Introduction to ICS (I-100)

NIMS an Introduction (IS-700)

Firefighter Training (S-130)

Human Factors on the Fireline (L-180)

Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (S-190)

OR

State Fire Marshal (SFM) Wildland Firefighter 1 certification

OR

Current IQS (Red) Card (Firefighter Type 2 or Higher) NWCG or CICC with copy of applicant's training and experience report records

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness*
(Must be a minimum of 8 hours and approved by CSTI)

Search and Rescue

Fundamentals of Search and Rescue *
(4-hour minimum approved by PRAC or NASAR)

Attach copies of current certificates to this page.

Substitutions:

A copy of your college transcripts documenting the completion of the specified trainings. Signed documents on agency letterhead from supervisor or chief that states the training requirement was met.

*SAR or HazMat Only



Park Rangers Association of California

Emergency Medical Services

First Aid Certification (select one)

American Red Cross First Aid for Public Safety Personnel Certificate
(May substitute higher certificate such as First Responder or EMT)

OR

Other First Aid Training Program that meets the requirements defined
by Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations and is approved by
the California Commission for Peace Officers Standards and Training.

*THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS FOR AN APPROVED FIRST AID COURSE UNDER TITLE
22 CCR IS **15 HOURS.***

OR

A current EMT, EMR or CA Public Safety First Aid certification or license

AND

CPR Certification (select one)

American Red Cross CPR with AED for the Professional Rescuer

OR

American Heart Association Basic Life Support

*THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS FOR AN APPROVED CPR COURSE UNDER TITLE 22
CCR IS **6 HOURS.** PER TITLE 22 CCR CPR COURSES MUST BE TAUGHT UNDER THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OR THE AMERICAN HEART
ASSOCIATION.*

Attach copies of current certificates to this page.

Substitutions:

A sealed copy of your college transcripts documenting the completion of the specified
trainings.



Park Rangers Association of California

Law Enforcement Standard

California Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Basic Academy

OR

California POST Level II Certificate

OR

California POST Level III Certificate

OR

Seasonal Law Enforcement Park Ranger Academy or FLETC and POST PC 832
Arrest and Control Certification

OR

Regional Ranger Academy (South Bay Ranger Academy or Orange County
Ranger Academy)

For Nevada

Nevada Peace Officers Standards and Training Certificate
(Approved for Nevada Park Rangers ONLY)

Attach copies of certificates to this page.

Substitutions:

A copy of your college transcripts or certifications documenting the completion of the specified POST trainings or copy of certifications by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission documenting the successful completion of the specified POST trainings or copy of your peace officer ID card with POST ID number and a copy of your POST training records